

SCPD EMPLOYMENT FIRST OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
JULY 11, 2017
SMYRNA REST AREA, SMYRNA

Present: Dan Madrid, Chair, DMS/Performance Innovation; Marissa Catalon, Vice-Chair, DDDS; Deb Bradl, DVI; Emmanuel Jenkins, DDC; Jocelyn Langrehr for Andrea Guest, DOL/DVR; Dale Matusevich, DOE; Ron Sarg, DCVA; Lloyd Schmitz, Council on Blind/SCPD; Cindy Sterling, ServiceSource/Ability Network of Delaware (AND); John McNeal, SCPD; and Amber Rivard, Support Staff.

Guest: Dr. David Mank (phone), Disability and Community Inclusion at Indiana University

CALL TO ORDER/Introductions/Approval of February/April/May Minutes

Dan called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Everyone introduced themselves. Ron motioned for approval of the last three minutes. Lloyd seconded the motion. The February, May and June minutes were approved as submitted.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

BUSINESS

EFSLMP Update

Dan briefed the Commission on the discussion of next steps around the national initiative. There was an initiative around engaging the state federal delegation around Employment First and recommendations made to support local programs. Another discussion was on the time and energy used for discussion on Medicaid and structuring. He asked Marissa if there was any follow-ups since the discussion from the June meeting about what the next steps will be to ensure the function of this Commission and what will be the most valuable to program services that support customers in seeking employment.

Marissa stated that Andrea was concerned in the timing of the communication of the federal delegation due to the discussion of the Health Care Act that concluded with more communication regarding the impact beyond healthcare (e.g. employment supports) of Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. John added that another discussion was on addressing the issue to the federal government or addressing in advance to the State leadership because that enforces forthcoming policies from the implementation of the healthcare plan or any changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He stated, after browsing the 2017 State budget, that there may be Medicaid cuts statewide. There is a current focus on funding toward the opioid epidemic. John suggested providing Secretary Walker with discussion from the previous Commission meetings and exhibit examples of how the Medicaid cuts will affect people with disabilities. Dan asked if the primary target to communicate on the issue is the State leadership or DHSS administration in a drafted letter or inviting individuals to meet on the importance of Medicaid issues for the disability population. John commented that there was discussion on inviting Lt. Gov. Bethany

Hall-Long, Representative Heffernan and other individuals to discuss the impacts of the Medicaid. He suggested that he could schedule for them to attend a meeting, but would need a quorum. The main outcomes should be to educate and ensure that the focus remains on what was left behind from the previous Governor's initiatives regarding people with disabilities. The Commission also should examine what will be forthcoming for Medicaid at a national level with the impact on the local level. Lloyd suggested the Commission focus on engaging legislative stakeholders before a plan is implemented. He added the Commission also needs to focus on a plan to educate the legislators. Dan asked if there are any recommendations for improvements to State structures that the Commission would take the lead in coordinating. He suggested the Commission should invite other SCPD groups or councils to discuss this as it is a main issue that affects most disability groups statewide. John commented that given he is the Director of the SCPD that this will be the main priority of discussion for the Council. There is an issue of the SCPD not meeting again until the end of September. He added that legislators on a national level may have decided on Medicaid before the August recess. This discussion will require massive interest and resources to work towards outcomes.

Dan commented that Secretary Walker has released a series of priorities for DHSS and her administration. It includes substance abuse and mental health, healthy neighborhoods, communities with high poverty rates, improvement of prison-to-community programs, and focus on the violence in Wilmington. He suggested these topics should be discussed by the Commission, and could align with EFOC priorities that could reinforce where Secretary Walker wants to improve efforts in the future. He added that he will send out the priorities for the Commission to browse over. John commented that the Commission should gather information on what the Commission has done, what the Commission will provide and what they need to do to finish up their current goals that are already in place with how to progress forward including the current initiatives. Dan stated the Commission should establish a goal in terms of a next step to engage others on gathered data for competitive integrated employment programs.

Dan asked for suggestions on whom to invite to future meetings to support the EFOC and their outcomes. Lloyd suggested contacting Independent Living Centers. Jocelyn suggested inviting someone from the Employment Training Section from DOL. DOL had a partnership with them and shared their apprenticeship and training programs for individuals from DOL, including the Pathways initiative. Lloyd suggested inviting the Department of State, Business Leadership Network (BLN), State Rehabilitation Council (Ellen Coulston is a part of the Council) and Ability Network of Delaware (AND). John suggested that the Commission have a retreat to provide an update of outcomes for the Commission as a whole. Cindy commented the previous goals and outcomes were assisted by working with DVI and DSAMH State Use Contracts to accomplish transitions that phase out sheltered workshops.

Dan commented that the Commission could keep track of how many individuals are moving into pre-vocational rehabilitation services versus other programs. A brief discussion was made on sub-minimum wage services and a Commission member suggested leaning away from it since the services are slowly phasing out. Ron stated that the State Chamber of Commerce could be a stakeholder for the Commission. He added that another stakeholder could be Dover Air Base. John stated that Project Search is the best example as it assists individuals with disabilities find employment and have employment that have training programs. Dale suggested inviting Luke or

Lisa from the DOE Career and Technical Education group to discuss and share other pathways on what accomplishments can be achieved through DVR and DOE programs, including addition of DDDS services. Dan agreed that the Commission should invite different stakeholders and discuss goals that the Commission can achieve for the stakeholders employment service programs in the next couple months. John commented that inviting the stakeholders will be the responsibility of the chair of the Commission.

Membership Protocol

Dan stated the Commission membership has a vacancy that must be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate (Senator David McBride) and a vacancy for a member with a disability, that are knowledgeable of disability issues, that are not a State employee and must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Representative Peter Schwartzkopf). He commented that the Commission could provide outreach through the State Chambers or ILC groups to go before the two legislators about being recommended to join the Commission. He suggested the Commission draft a letter of communication to the groups that explains the nature of the Commission and ask that we have an open call for participation to people that may be interested in serving a role on the Commission. Marissa made a motion and Lloyd seconded the motion. Dan stated prior to the August meeting, he will begin drafting the letter and send it to the Commission members to review. John added that Jana DiCosmo never participated in the Commission discussions, though she is an appointed member through DOL. He stated that there are specific requirements in being a participant in a role for the Commission. He will inform the Secretary of Labor, Patrice Gilliam-Johnson of the absence of Jana and see if Secretary Gilliam-Johnson could replace her with another member from the Division of Industrial Affairs.

Elections

Dan stated that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission are opened for nominations. Lloyd nominated himself for the Chair position. The Vice-Chair position will be held off until the August meeting. Pat Maichle was nominated for the Vice-Chair position, but was not in attendance. The vote was unanimous, with Lloyd becoming the new Chair of the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce Annual Economic Summit will be held September 19th. It will be held at Delaware Technical and Community College on the Terry Campus, Dover.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities finalized a contract with the Columbus Organization that is the entity for the contract for targeted case management of individuals that live at home and ones with their families for developmental disabilities services. There will be more requirements for family planning.

John asked the Commission if they have any agenda items to discuss for the next meeting. Lloyd commented that one of the agenda items will be the letter encouraging participation for the Commission. This should be discussed further and implement a plan in September. Nominations for Vice-Chair will be held at the next meeting if there is quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Rivard
Administrative Specialist